

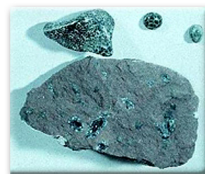
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CHLORASTROLITE (GREENSTONE)

Chlorastrolite, the official State Gem, is a mineral that is formed in association with lava flows. Its common name, “greenstone,” comes from its green color. Typical gems have a pattern of overlapping edges, ranging from yellow-green to almost black. Chlorastrolite is derived from three Latin words: “*chloros*,” meaning green; “*aster*,” meaning star; and “*lithos*,” meaning stone. In Michigan, chlorastrolite pebbles can be found on rocky beaches in Northern Michigan’s “copper country,” particularly on Isle Royale.

(Public Act 56 of 1972)

This image shows Chlorastrolite in its raw, unpolished form. Greenstones are quite uncommon with gem varieties found only in Michigan. The usual size varies between $\frac{1}{8}$ and $\frac{1}{2}$ inch. Gem-quality stones larger than $\frac{1}{2}$ inch are rarely found for sale and a stone of gem-quality larger than $\frac{3}{4}$ inch is museum material.



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